Dear Friends,

Affordable Housing Month Silicon Valley begins today to bring awareness and community engagement to the other crisis we face as a community – the lack of affordable housing throughout the region.

In other years, the month would be filled with seminars, meetings, workshops and social gatherings to bring us together to talk about the challenges we face. But because we are still sheltering in place, the programs will be digital, which we’ve all become accustomed to as we work to keep COVID-19 from spreading.

The 30 plus nonprofits who have partnered with SV@Home have created an innovative lineup of 44 online events to help us keep up the momentum of increasing our housing inventory, especially for those who are living on the edge. The need is even greater now with so many losing their jobs under the new restrictions.

This year, there are also activities for children who are learning from home during the pandemic. To join the digital events, click here.

SV@Home also invites you to share a fond memory of a neighbor, whether from present day or your childhood. Use the #BeMyNeighbor to share on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or LinkedIn.

Affordable housing construction has always been a priority with me, and I was pleased to announce this week that the new Shelter in Place Order allows construction projects to resume, as long as the workers follow safety protocols. Visit my website to learn more and read coverage in The Milpitas Beat, Telemundo, and San Jose Spotlight.

COVID-19 Cases in Santa Clara County
Today, the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department reported that there are 2,179 confirmed cases of Coronavirus and 113 deaths. The Public Health Coronavirus web page dashboards are updated daily.

In the News

Did you get a chance to see recent coverage of our work in your local news? Check out the latest news here on my website. This week I was able to sit down with John Woolfolk to discuss whether there is a possible Las Vegas-Silicon Valley coronavirus link.

State Food Support Programs Expanding

On Thursday, Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled $3.64 million in new funding to expand the state’s Farm to Family program, including funding from the federal government and the private sector. There is also a philanthropic campaign underway to raise an additional $15 million.

California also received approval to redirect $2 million in unused Specialty Crop Block Grant funds to the California Association of Food Banks to offset the costs of picking, packing and transporting donated produce. Farm to Family partners with 41 food banks serving all 58 counties and handles the logistics of packaging the food and communicating with food banks.

The Governor also announced that CalFresh recipients will receive the maximum benefits for the month of May. This is a continuation of the same level of benefit received in March and April.

Finally, families with children eligible for free or reduced-price meals can now receive additional support via the Pandemic Emergency Benefits Transfer Program (P-EBT). Families receiving free or reduced lunches but not enrolled in CalFresh will need to complete a short online application, which will open in late May.

Click here for more details on these programs.

Family Entertainment and Learning from Home

The Open Space Authority and its partners are bringing you a full calendar of virtual, livestreamed outdoor events and programs to keep you connected to nature. Join them for tours of parks, preserves, and urban open spaces, mental wellness activities, outdoor art lessons, live animal presentations, native plant walks, and more.

Santa Clara County-based arts organization MACLA is offering free resources to the community during shelter-in-place. MACLA’s Stories from La Sala is offering a series of online performances, digital media sessions, artists talks, and educational workshops.

Take a virtual field trip to the Hogwarts Virtual Escape Room, a NASA virtual space tour, Yellowstone National Park, and more through the San José Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department’s Virtual Recreation Center or these Virtual Field Trip Links.

Join the Santa Clara County Library District on Facebook for stories and rhymes during weekly Family Storytime. Tuesday story times are at 5 p.m. and designed for school-age children five years old and up. Thursday story times are at 5 p.m. and will be presented in Spanish and English. Friday story times are at 11 a.m. and will be presented in Mandarin and English.

The Children’s Discovery Museum is offering programming through the Virtual Purple Museum (VPM). Museum educators broadcast every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on Facebook. Programs include Storytime, Let’s Get Creative, Science Is Everywhere, and Toddler Fun. Every Saturday a themed package is uploaded to the VPM with a hands-on activity, children’s video, and an article or video with tips and resources to help parents
and families navigate these uncertain times. Some offerings are available in Spanish and Vietnamese.

**San José Passes Rent-Increase Moratorium**

The San José City Council approved a moratorium on residential rent increases. The moratorium prohibits landlords from increasing rent from April 29, 2020, through December 31, 2020. Anyone who would like more information about the rent-increase moratorium and related actions can contact the Housing Department at RSP@sanjoseca.gov or 408-975-4480.

**Deadline for Criminal Trials Extended**

California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye issued a new statewide order to extend by 30 days the deadline for superior courts to hold criminal trials. Added to earlier actions, the extensions of time for criminal trials during the period of pandemic is now at 90 days. Additionally, the Chief Justice’s order urges collaboration among local justice partners to hold trials earlier, if possible and appropriate, through the use of remote technology. Click here for details.

**Join Supervisor Cortese’s Radio Town Hall on Wednesday, May 6**

Please join Supervisor Dave Cortese's Radio Town Hall on Wednesday, May 6, from 6 to 7 p.m. focused on answering your questions about COVID-19 and what the County is doing to help residents. Tune in to KCXU 92.7 FM for the Town Hall, and you can call in to the station at 408-634-8086 to get your questions answered on air. You can also text the Office of Supervisor Cortese at 408-480-7833 in case you aren’t able to have your call connected to the radio station.

These town halls will be in English with a recorded Spanish translation available upon request. The radio station gets coverage in the following neighborhoods: Alviso, North San Jose, Alum Rock, Little Portugal, Japantown, Downtown, Little Italy, The Alameda, Rose Garden, Santana Row, Willow Glen, Little Saigon, Evergreen, and Naglee.

For those who want to participate who do not live in these neighborhoods, you can access the live stream of this show as well as the recorded show later at this link: https://www.spreaker.com/show/santa-clara-county-radio-town-halls

**Other Town Halls This Month**
Tune in to KSJX 1500AM Multicultural Radio Saturday, May 2 from 7 to 8 p.m. Call in to the station at 408-914-0183 to get your questions answered on air. You can also text my office at 408-480-7833 in case you aren’t able to connect to the station. We will be sure to answer every question that is texted to us. These Town Halls will be in English with a recorded Vietnamese translation available upon request.

You can also join me on VietBay TV for an Online Town Hall that will be streaming on multiple platforms. The live discussion can be streamed on Saturday, May 2, and Saturday May 9, from 3 to 4 p.m. at youtube.com/vietbaytvkaxt and facebook.com/vietbaytv. Call in and ask your questions at 408-287-3587 or text my Office at 408-480-7833.

As always, you can reach my office at 408-299-5030, email me at dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org or visit the District 3 webpage.

Stay safe,

Dave Cortese
County Supervisor, Third District